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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

April
1957



GLACIER PEAK WILDERNESS, WASHINGTON

Tom Miller

Wilderness Conference

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Letter to Sen. Knowland

SEE PAGE 6

People You Know

ONE of the ablest and most useful members of the *Bulletin* staff is in for a long period on his back. John Schagen had a spinal operation in mid-March which has kept him flat, but he should be able to read this issue in a somewhat more comfortable position than the one (pre-operation traction) in which he read proof on the Outing number.

Bonanza has enlarged its staff with the appointment of an associate editor. Winifred Minear will be the eager recipient of all or any news she can gather (as *Bonanza* says, "what is a newspaper without news?").

Congratulations to Merle Alley, George Sessions, Wayne Kincheloe and Jerry Beatty on the first ascent of Balch Camp Flake in the Kings River Canyon, one of the hardest climbs yet undertaken by the Tehipite Chapter. This after several unsuccessful tries.

The recent death of Orland Bartholomew, of Clovis, will remind many old timers of his exploits while with the U.S. Forest Service. He made the first solo ski trip up Mount Whitney

THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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during the winter of 1938-39, on a three-month trip over the Sierra, subsisting on food caches he had placed in trees. He retired in 1951, after spending his last twenty years in the service as a ranger at Huntington Lake.

Another old timer, Paul Paine, one of the best known fishermen on many an early High Trip (he helped me catch my first Golden Trout on my own first High Trip), died late in January.

Bill Long of Toiyabe Chapter took part in the first snow survey carried out exclusively by helicopter. An operation that formerly required four to ten days (measuring snow at four key stations on the Kern River watershed) was completed in 8½ hours.

A really good agent would have picked up plenty of "People You Know" tidbits for the editor at the Wilderness Conference in San Francisco March 15-16. However, among many Sierra Club notables glimpsed at the gathering of the Four Hundred (yes, there were 400, and more) were: Dr. Leslie Gould, chairman of our youngest chapter, Toiyabe; Genny Schumacher, well known Council member and Kern-Kaweah Chapter chairman; Luella Sawyer, editor of both *Western Outdoor Quarterly* and *California Out-of-Doors* (gathering news, of course); Al Schmitz of the Pacific Northwest Chapter; Anne Brower on the jump carrying the microphone and managing the long cord as only a good rock climber's wife could; and many others—but our space is limited.

Those of you who were at the Conference and saw the wonderful pictorial exhibit put on under the experienced direction of Helen Verdi (Ansel Adams' and Nancy Newhall's interpretive photo-and-text "This Is the American Earth," Philip Hyde's beautiful black-and-white photographs, and David Simons' unusual and effective transparencies of the Glacier Peak area) should know also that in order to have these displays ready and perfected in time for the Conference, Dave Simons and John Dewitt worked far into the small hours of several nights. Dave all night long for one if not two nights. The exhibit was certainly worth it.

An interview in the San Francisco *Call-Bulletin* revealed interesting facts about Rudy Talso's Samoyeds, Chinook and Donner, who eat about 21 pounds of meat a week, enjoy sleeping out in 10 degrees below zero, and haul Clair Tappaan Lodge ski casualties as well as supplies.

HARRIET T. PARSONS



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Sierra Club Bulletin

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APRIL, 1957

NUMBER 4

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

Recommendations on Wilderness

MORE than 400 conservationists and resource administrators from the United States and Alaska concluded the largest of the Biennial Wilderness Conferences, held in San Francisco March 15 and 16. The conference was organized by the Sierra Club and co-sponsored by the American Planning and Civic Association, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the Izaak Walton League of America, the National Parks Association, and The Wilderness Society. Directors of the principal Federal land-administering agencies took part, and George C. Collins, of the National Park Service, was general chairman. The banquet program was presented by the California Academy of Sciences.

Theme of the Conference was "Wild Lands in Our Civilization," and the two days were devoted respectively to a review of scenic open-space resources and the national wilderness preservation system.

The Conference voted the following recommendations:

1. Outdoor Recreation Resources Review

A satisfactory and well-rounded standard of life for our growing population calls for enhanced appreciation of outdoor scenic and recreational values.

Exactly what acreage is required for fulfillment of the various needs is unknown, but it is known that numerous superb areas, small and large, have been lost, or have been whittled away during the past decade, and more are slated for destruction. It is also known that areas not specifically set aside for protection with strict boundaries and with strict standards of quality have little chance for survival in our civilization.

The valid pressures for raw materials (including water); agricultural products; military requirements; transportation; growing urbanization and industrialization; and commercial, mechanized recreation, and mass entertainment are of such great intensity that in our preoccupation with them, we could lose sight of scientific and inspirational values. This great and prosperous nation can afford to give attention to the values which are more than the material and are indispensable to the welfare of our people.

Developmental and resource surveys have been undertaken for land and water uses, including forest products, minerals, water, highway, military and urban development. However, these surveys have to date given scant, if any, consideration to wilderness and other scenic and outdoor recreational needs.

It is essential to know before it is too late that wilderness, wildlife, scenic, and other outdoor recreational resources still are available, where they are, and what is the type and quality of each, and their relation to the preservation of wilderness. It is also essential to estimate how many and what types of each we shall need in fifty and a hundred years, and how we may best save those selected for preservation with high standards of size and quality in perpetuity. If the opportunity remaining to save these outdoor recreational resources is lost now, it will be lost forever.

To this end, we recommend in principle the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Bill (S.846).

We further recommend legislative provision for temporary protected status, pending completion of the inventory contemplated in the Outdoor Recreation Resource Review, of certain lands of probable high scenic, recreational, and scientific potential as determined by the Commission; on lands so protected there should

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be no intrusion or development that would preclude their subsequent use in the highest public good in accordance with criteria developed in the course of the inventory.

We urge that the legislation establishing the survey not be misinterpreted so as to interfere with the adoption of other legislation to provide for the immediate protection of wilderness and of resources in need of such immediate action.

2. Basic Wilderness Protection

In accordance with proposals made, studied, and developed in 1951 and 1953, during the second and third biennial wilderness conferences, the *Fourth Biennial Wilderness Conference* meeting in Berkeley, California, two years ago on March 19, 1955, adopted a "major recommendation" urging basic Federal legislation for wilderness preservation. This resolution was as follows:

"We recommend basic legislation, or a joint resolution of Congress, to establish a system of wilderness areas and to provide for their protection specifically by law regardless of what agency they may be under at present. However, we recommend that the agencies at present administering these areas continue to administer them."

The *Fifth Biennial Wilderness Conference*, meeting in San Francisco, California, on March 16, 1957, is encouraged to note that such legislation has now been introduced in the Congress of the United States.

Commonly known as "the wilderness bill," S.1176 in the Senate, and a series of similar measures in the House of Representatives have been sponsored by a number of legislators in the Senate by Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and a group of co-sponsors of both political parties from coast to coast: Senators Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, Joseph S. Clark, Jr., of Pennsylvania, Frank J. Lausche of Ohio, Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, James

Camp Fire Girls

Female Sierra Club members, from the teen-age years up, may be interested in camp staff positions at Camp Caniya in Tahoe National Forest, operated by the San Francisco Council of Camp Fire Girls. The camp is open from June 20 to August 25.

A variety of paid positions is available. For information write to Camp Fire Girls, 325 Arguello Boulevard, San Francisco 18.

D. Murray of Montana, Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson of Washington, and Wayne Morse and Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon; in the House by Representatives John F. Baldwin, Jr., and George P. Miller of California, Lee Metcalf of Montana, Henry S. Reuss of Wisconsin, Barratt O'Hara of Illinois, and John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania.

We commend these legislators for their leadership in sponsoring this measure and, supporting the bill in principle, we urge that it be further studied through adequate hearings, clarified, perfected, and enacted.

We believe that large-size wilderness should be protected in perpetuity under true wilderness conditions, and that its preservation is essential to the cultural, historic, esthetic, recreational, and scientific needs of the country, and to the physical well-being of all its people. To provide therefor, we conclude that:

1. A continental wilderness system representing all major types of wilderness must be established firmly, to include units of such quality, size, and variety as to provide adequate scope and space.

2. Most of the units that qualify for this system have either already been designated by the Forest Service, or exist without specific designation on national forests or on lands administered by the National Park Service and by other government agencies, and these agencies should continue to protect the areas of wilderness on the lands under their jurisdiction.

3. Inasmuch as the mounting pressures for raw materials and development are predictably capable of encroaching upon and modifying all the remaining natural land of the country, it is now necessary: (a) to make the clearest possible statement of national wilderness policy, (b) to reinforce it with full public understanding of wilderness values, and (c) to provide maximum legislative and administrative protection.

4. Administrative agencies are to be commended for advancing the concept of wilderness protection. Without specific legislative authority and review, however, some agencies cannot now withstand mounting pressures for commodity development on lands that should remain wild, and other agencies are becoming progressively less able to do so. A clear legislative basis for wilderness protection is needed.

The *Fifth Biennial Wilderness Conference* accordingly endorses the National Wilderness Preservation System Bill, realizing that this generation's decision to preserve wilderness will

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be subject to each succeeding generation's review, but that it will not have this choice unless an adequate preservation program is now developed.

3. Arctic Wilderness

Virtually all of Northeast Alaska lying east of the Canning and upper Chandalar rivers and Old Woman Creek and north of latitude $68^{\circ} 15' N$ is still a primeval Arctic wilderness not elsewhere duplicated in our nation, and studies indicate that the highest and most productive and sustained economic scientific, and cultural use of this area, for Alaskans and for the entire nation, will be as a perpetual wilderness.

We recommend that the Bureau of Land Management formally designate and administer this area as an Arctic wilderness; that the assistance of appropriate sister agencies be invoked where advisable, and that suitable regulations be established to recognize and perpetuate its primitive conditions and to encourage all types of economic and cultural use that are compatible with the paramount objective of maintaining unimpaired the ecological conditions within the area;

We further recommend with regard to other areas in the Brooks Range that a co-operative investigation be made by Alaskans, by the Bureau of Land Management and appropriate sister agencies and by wilderness organizations looking toward the establishment of additional wilderness areas in the Brooks Range.

4. Three Sisters Wilderness, Oregon

In order to permit further consideration of the wilderness terrain of the Three Sisters region before irreversible action has been taken to destroy it, we recommend that the 53,000-acre portion not included in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area be allowed to continue in its present primitive condition, without roads and without logging, at least until the completion of such studies as contemplated in the proposed Outdoor Recreation Resources Review, including an evaluation of the relation of the Three Sisters to the national requirement for wilderness preservation.

5. Northern Cascades of Washington

We recommend that the Forest Service invite the participation of other public agencies and qualified representatives of the public in a continuation and broadening of the land-management study of the wild and superlatively scenic areas of the Northern Cascades of Washington between Stevens Pass and the Canadian boundary, to the end that the highest public use of this area may be assured in the long run.

Muir Memorial

The John Muir Memorial Association, which held its annual dinner February 4 at the Martinez junior high school and re-elected Dr. Hugh V. White as president, has planned a festival April 26, 27 and 28 at Muir Manor in Alhambra Valley near Martinez. David R. Brower will speak on "John Muir and the Sierra Club" during a memorial gathering at Muir's grave on Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.

Those interested in joining the Association, whose principal purpose is to help restore Muir's old home and bring it into the California State Park system as a historical museum, may do so by sending \$1 to the secretary, Harriet Kelly, 1225 Ulfian Way, Martinez.

6. Nonconforming Uses in Wilderness

We are disturbed by the existence of certain nonconforming practices within certain wilderness areas which now undermine and which, if not checked, will destroy the wilderness values of these areas. Among these practices are prospecting and mining, the building of access roads to mines and other inholdings, and the landing of private planes on inholdings and in wilderness areas.

We recommend, therefore, that wilderness, wild, primitive and roadless areas be withdrawn from mineral entry, the landing of airplanes within these areas be terminated, and vested rights and inholdings be purchased so that nonconforming uses may be excluded from these areas.

7. Wilderness of the Olympic Strip, Washington

We recommend that the Ocean strip which is part of Olympic National Park and which contains the last primitive beach in the United States, should be preserved as wilderness, and that in order to provide for this preservation the National Park Service should acquire sufficient land adjacent thereto to accommodate any coastal highway constructed in this region.

8. 1959 Conference

We recommend that the continuity of the Wilderness Conferences over the past years be continued for the future under a chairman to be named by the Sierra Club as the sponsoring organization.

Dear Senator

A letter to Sen. Knowland
from the Sierra Club's
Executive Director

MARCH 22, 1957

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND
SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Senator Knowland:

*The National Wilderness
Preservation System*

You may recall that on February 18 Mr. James Mussatti, General Manager of the California State Chamber of Commerce, wrote you a letter in which he stated that the Chamber's Directors "opposed the principle of S. 4013" (84th Congress, 2d Session) and therefore "any legislation having a similar purpose."

I have been surprised and deeply disappointed at certain seriously misleading and inaccurate statements in the letter and the news release based upon it, and I feel that you would want me to call these inaccuracies to your attention.

First, it is most unfortunate that Mr. Mussatti apparently did not have at hand the *Congressional Record* of February 11, in which Senator Humphrey introduced into the *Record* (pages 1707-1720) and the current wilderness bill (S. 1176), which enjoys nationwide, bipartisan sponsorship in both Senate and House, together with full documentation of the intent of the legislation and the wide public support it has already enjoyed. Had Mr. Mussatti been aware of the facts therein clearly stated, he would not have written you as he did.

Second, I was present at the meeting of the Statewide Natural Resources Committee meeting, presided over by Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, at which wilderness-area legislation, then about to be introduced, was discussed, and at that time was able to correct certain misapprehensions about the proposal. The Committee made the following recommendation, which was adopted August

31 by the Directors: "That the State Chamber of Commerce reaffirm its policy in support of the principle of multiple use of all forest areas under administration of the United States Forest Service and oppose legislation which would take this responsibility away from the Department of Agriculture." The wilderness-system proposals are in no way inconsistent with this recommendation, as a careful reading of the bill will make abundantly clear. It therefore seems to me quite evident that the staff of the Chamber has no authority for opposing the proposals.

Third, in his general misunderstanding of the proposals Mr. Mussatti seems to feel they pertain only to National Forest lands, which is not the case. One of his primary concerns is that Congress would have an opportunity to review decisions of the Executive Branch with respect to the extinction of wilderness. In this regard, it is significant to note that Chief Forester Richard E. McArdle told the 400 national conservation leaders attending the Sierra Club's Fifth Biennial Wilderness Conference on March 16, "I am in sympathy with the general objectives of these (wilderness bill) proposals and believe that it would be helpful if Congress were to enunciate a policy on wilderness so that administrators of public lands would have some direct guidance from Congress as to the protection and preservation of wilderness and the objectives of wilderness management." He stated that this should not be construed as specific approval of the specific proposals, which are still being carefully studied by the Department of Agriculture. Details of the wilderness preservation system were made known to Mr. McArdle a year ago.

The enclosed page of questions and answers [opposite page] deals with most of Mr. Mussatti's misconceptions about the legislation. We shall be happy to try to answer any other questions you may have, and hope that we may have your support of perhaps the most forward-looking conservation step since the National Park Act of 1916, of great importance to California and to the nation as a whole.

Sincerely,
DAVID R. BROWER

What the Wilderness Bill Does

Q. Will the Bill imperil water development?

A. No. Most wilderness is high, where it provides optimum watershed protection, and gravity will bring water to downstream users. If the long-range highest public interest requires use of wilderness for water development (if it is proved that there are no alternatives), boundaries can be changed or particular exceptions made. The protection which Congress gives under this Bill it can also take away.

Q. Will the Bill "freeze" or "lock up" resources?

A. No. It will continue and improve present protection of wilderness. Whatever the Bill might appear to "freeze" will be well preserved, subject to thaw whenever a good case is made. Without the Bill, the same resource can be too easily boiled away, never to be recovered.

Q. Will the Bill create a "supergovernment agency"?

A. No. The Council created by the Bill has no administrative power—it is an "inter-agency library" reporting annually to Congress, open to the public. Present administering agencies will serve on it; for every \$1,000 they will continue to receive in their respective continuing jurisdiction, the Council will have but a few cents (\$50,000 per year).

Q. Will Congress be "usurping" power over the land?

A. No. It is Congress' duty and power in the first place, delegated as Congress sees fit. Congress, as the nation's board of directors, has given broad authority to the administrative staff. Under the Bill, the directors merely ask the opportunity to review staff decisions to dispose of certain types of land—irreversible decisions about wilderness.

Q. Will the Bill remove wilderness from Forest Service jurisdiction?

A. No. Existing jurisdictions will continue. Without the Bill as a tool for wilderness protection, public pressure may force the most important wilderness areas to other jurisdictions, however.

Q. What, in brief, does the Bill do?

1. Defines wilderness and recognizes it as an important public resource which man cannot create, but can only agree, from generation to generation, not to use up.
2. Provides legislative sanction for classifying wilderness according to recommendations by administrative agencies; avoids excessive administrative discretion, such as has led to arbitrary handling of military withdrawals and refuges and to the premature elimination this year of 53,000 acres from the Three Sisters Wilderness, Oregon.
3. Maintains existing jurisdictions and provides opportunity for review by Congress of additions to or deletions from the system. Lets the public, through Congress, know what is happening to its wilderness, and why it is happening.

Summary. The Wilderness Bill can make no irreversible decisions. Lack of the Bill can permit irreversible decisions by default.

Bulletin Board

Both the Assembly and the Senate of the California State Legislature have appointed sub-committees to study the great number of new State Park bills introduced in the current session. The Senate sub-committee is under the Natural Resources Committee and has Swift Berry of Placerville as chairman; the Assembly sub-committee, headed by Jesse M. Unruh of Los Angeles, is under Conservation, Planning and Public Works.

• As of April 5th, AB325—the vital emergency bill for land acquisition for Mt. Tamalpais State Park—had been approved by Mr. Unruh's sub-committee and had been sent for action to the full committee.

• AB1361—the bill to abolish the San Jacinto Winter Park Authority—is scheduled for Assembly hearings early in April.

Recent policy decisions by the Sierra Club include: (1) a request to the National Forest Service to maintain the 53,000 acres recently excluded from the Three Sisters Wilderness Area in its present primitive condition until it can be studied by the proposed Outdoors Recreation Resources Review and evaluated in relation to total national wilderness requirements; (2) a recommendation for legislation to give temporary protection to lands of probable high scenic, recreational and scientific potential, pending completion of the inventory contemplated in the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review; (3) opposition to the landing of aircraft for commercial purposes in the wilderness portions of National Parks, Monuments and Forests.

The Conservation Committee of the Club has stated a policy that "as far as possible,

• *Marked items urgent; individuals can help*

scenic highways should be planned so as to exclude structures, including billboards, incompatible with optimum enjoyment of rural and natural roadside vistas."

• On the national scene . . . S497, the "Omnibus Bill" authorizing construction of the Bruce's Eddy Dam on the Clearwater River in Idaho, has passed the Senate Public Works Committee. The Sierra Club continues strong opposition to this dam.

Settlement of the Wichita Mountain-Fort Sill controversy between the Army and the Department of the Interior appears to be arranged. Interior will give the Army a ten-year use permit including the setting up of a safety, or buffer zone along the southern edge of the Refuge. All of the land will remain under jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife management purposes. The buffer zone—from which the public will be excluded—will be about one-third of the 10,700 acres previously asked for by the Army.

HR5421 (Westland, Wash.) and HR496 (Magnuson, Wash.), twin bills to authorize certain land exchanges (involving some 6,608 acres adjacent to Queets Corridor and Ocean Strip) to acquire inholdings in Olympic National Park, has recently been introduced in Congress.

In the Senate S693 has recently been introduced by the Arizona Senators Goldwater and Hayden, proposing a well-studied, Park-recommended revision of boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park. This bill would also consolidate areas of the present park and the Grand Canyon National Monument into a single national park.

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